Country	IMR—2003* (Per Thousand Live Births)	Neo-natal Mort. Rate# (Per thousand live births)	Low Birth Rate* (Per cent)
Bhutan	70	38	15
India	63	43	30
Pakistan	81	57	19
Myanmar	76	40	15
Nepal	61	40	21
Sri Lanka	13	11	22

*UNICEF-The State of the world's children 2005
WHO-The World Health Report 2005

Grants for Protection of Sanctuaries and Parks of Kerala

*293. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme for grant, submitted for protecting Sanctuaries and National Parks of Kerala, is under the consideration of the competent authority;

(b) if so, the details including the grant sought and the action taken on the above proposal;

(c) the details of assistance sanctioned to Kerala under the Scheme 'Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries' during the last three years, year-wise;

(d) whether steps will be taken to increase the allocation to Kerala under the said scheme;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir. Proposals in the form of "Annual Plans of Operation (APO)" are received from Government of Kerala for financial assistance under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes "Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries", "Project Tiger" and "Project Elephant" for protection of Sanctuaries and National Parks of Kerala.

(b) The details of funds sought by the State Government and the action taken for the year 2005-2006 is as follows:-

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Name of Schemes	Funds Sought	Amount Sanctioned (Till August, 2005)
Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries	507.43	268.00
Project Tiger	279.00	96.00
Project Elephant	227.15	171.930

(c) The details of funds released under the scheme "Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries", during the last three years to Kerala are as follows:—

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Year	Funds Released
2002-2003	198.978
2003-2004	188.371
2004-2005	238.78879

(d) to (f) The quantum of funds released for each State depends upon the availability of funds in conjuction with the APOs received.

New policy for welfare of farmers

*294. SHRI N.R. GOVINDRAJAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the living condition of farmers in our country is totally unsatisfactory inspite of India emerging as an agricultural power;

(b) if so, whether Government have formulated/will formulate any new policy for the welfare of farmers who are backbone of our economy;

(c) if so, the salient features of the policy;

(d) whether some reforms in the farm sector are proposed to be introduced to improve farmers' social and financial conditions; and